

LINX

News from NAVCA

Join NAVCA now!



NAVCA welcomes membership applications from local and regional support and development organisations of any kind.

Contact: kerrie.shepherd@navca.org.uk

Issue 152, 29 October 2010

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Supporting a Stronger Civil Society

The Government has launched its [Big Society strategy for charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises](#). As part of this strategy, it has launched a consultation on improving support for frontline civil society organisations, [Supporting a Stronger Civil Society](#).

This consultation addresses some fundamental issues for NAVCA and its members. Deadline: 6 January, but please note responses to Question 9 should be received by 25 November.

NAVCA has published a [briefing on the consultation](#) and will, of course, be responding to it. If you would like to feed into NAVCA's response to the consultation, email neil.cleeveley@navca.org.uk as soon as possible.

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CSR news

- [Events](#)

Receiving LINX

Do you rely on getting LINX forwarded to you? Sign up to receive LINX direct.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

For more details of how to subscribe to our print newsletter 'Circulation' see the [publications pages](#) of our website.

LINX online

This edition of [LINX](#) will be on the NAVCA website shortly. You can also view recent copies of LINX online.

navcaboodle

A social network for the voluntary and community sector



Join now:

www.navcaboodle.org.uk

New discussions:

- [More dates for Understanding Contracts training.](#)
- [Code of Good Governance second edition launched.](#)

Boodle stats:

- [1,445 members](#)
- [52 groups](#)

Follow us on [twitter](#)

NAVCA events and training

A round-up of news from the Comprehensive Spending Review.



Cabinet Office

The Cabinet Office will reduce its core resource budget by 35% in real terms. However additional funding is available to enable the Cabinet Office to take on a range of new responsibilities including:

- Support for Civic Society organisations, including a £100m 'Transition Fund' to help charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises make the transition to a tougher funding environment. NAVCA will argue that the money should be used to help the local voluntary sector. We will argue that it should not reward areas where local authorities have made deep cuts.
- The National Citizen Service.
- The Community First Fund, which will support new and existing small organisations in the most deprived areas.

Health

There will be additional investment to support social care, rising to £2bn per year by 2014-15, through the NHS and local government, to break down the barriers between health and social care.

Communities and Local Government

Over the course of the Spending Review period, CLG's overall resource will reduce by 33% in real terms. Alongside this, the Department is devolving over £6.7bn to local government over the period. Capital spending will reduce by 74%. The Secretary of State has written to all local authority Leaders in England setting out the implications of the Spending Review announcement for local government.

Other department's Spending Review settlements are also available on their websites:

- [Charity Commission](#)
- [Culture Media and Sport](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Energy and Climate Change](#)
- [Defra](#)
- [Sport England](#)

See also:

- [info4local: One stop for the Spending Review](#)
- [Civil Society 'at a glance' guide to the review and its effect on the sector.](#)

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Understanding contracts: the legal implications

24 November, Chester
6 December, Birmingham.

Advocating intelligent commissioning

24 November, Leeds.

SKiLD training



Diversity: making it real

16 November, York.

Project management for development workers

17 November, Birmingham.

Making your development work greener

23 November, Islington.

Liberating Leadership

23-24 November, Cambridge.

For more information on the programme and how to book, contact SKiLD on 0114 278 6636 or visit www.skild.org.uk



Empowering the Voluntary Sector

In light of the current round of

central and local government cuts **can you afford not to** attend one of our award winning workshops?

- 16 November, Hillingdon
- 19 November, Immingham
- 25 November, Droitwich
- 1 December, Calderdale.

Masterclasses:

- 23 November, Sheffield
- 26 January, Bristol
- 3 February, Manchester
- 22 February, London.

NAVCA update

Big Society vanguard

NAVCA members working in the four Big Society vanguard areas (Liverpool, Cumbria, Sutton and Windsor & Maidenhead) are meeting together with NAVCA on 18 November in Birmingham. The purpose of the meeting is to share learning about the Big Society in operation and to draw out the implications for NAVCA members throughout the country. More information from kevin.curley@navca.org.uk

Sector Challenge Summit

Next Tuesday (2 November) NAVCA Chief Executive Kevin Curley will attend a summit at 11 Downing Street hosted by Francis Maude (Minister for the Cabinet Office) and Nick Hurd. Kevin will be raising the need to sustain local council funding for local support and development organisations and the Government's role in encouraging this. He will also raise the need for the Government to help the voluntary sector unlock more pro bono help from the private sector, and from new forms of funding such as Social Investment Bonds and Community Shares.

Criminal Records and Vetting and Barring Reviews

The Government has announced the terms of reference for reviews on the Vetting and Barring Scheme and Criminal Records. NAVCA will be feeding into these reviews.

NAVCA has regularly raised the issue of portability of CRB checks. We are pleased that within the Spending Review, the Government has announced that it will be looking to increase the portability of CRB checks.

NAVCA delegation meets Minister for Decentralisation and Localism

Nine NAVCA representatives met with Andrew Stunell MP, Minister for Decentralisation and Localism yesterday (27 October). They explained to the minister why strong local support and development organisations are vital if 'localism' is to bring real benefit to communities. See NAVCA website.



NAVCA challenges Charity Commission chief over grants

Kevin Curley has written to Sam Younger, Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, expressing disappointment at his comments about a 'grant mentality' in his maiden speech. See NAVCA News webpage.

Go to www.evproject.org.uk to find more about the project, workshop dates in the autumn, how to host a workshop, our advice line, newsletters and other resources for download.

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Public spending cuts and the voluntary and community sector

The NAVCA website has a section on the [public spending cuts](#), with resources to help local support and development organisations and development workers navigate the cuts landscape and continue to provide the best service possible.

Big Society

The NAVCA website has a section on the [Big Society](#), the Government's policies to redistribute power from the state to society and from the centre to local communities, and to give people the opportunity to take more control over their lives.



Trainers and Consultants Direct

Zyky is NAVCA's current [ICD Featured consultant](#). It has extensive experience of working with Third Sector organisations of all sizes and at all levels. This includes undertaking and managing community development projects, designing, organising and managing Web projects that meet senior management, governing body, funder and regulatory needs.

To find out more go to www.trainersandconsultantsdirect.org.uk

Merlin Standard

Kevin also wrote to Nick Hurd about the new DWP Merlin Standard. In his letter Kevin praises the DWP for recognising the problems which smaller sub-contractors were experiencing and for investing time and effort in the development of a standard to address these. However, Kevin also uses the letter to express NAVCA's concern about Prime-Contracting models, not suitable for local commissioning. See [NAVCA News webpage](#).

Closure of Women's National Commission

NAVCA has joined dozens of prominent women's organisations, rights groups and charities in writing to the Home Secretary, Theresa May, to express disappointment and dismay over the Government's decision to axe the Women's National Commission. [NAVCA News webpage](#).

Big Bolton Fund nominated for Social Change Award

Congratulations to Bolton CVS whose Big Bolton Fund has been nominated for a national [DSC Social Change Award](#) in the Great Giving Funders section.

NJC car allowances 4 January - 31 March 2011

The [new local authority mileage rates](#), allowing for the increase in VAT from 17.5% to 20% on 4 January, are now available on the NAVCA website.

Members' news

The Members' news section of 'Circulation' highlights news and successes from members. If you have news of new projects and other achievements such as new buildings, please let us know. We are looking for items of interest to other local support and development organisations - things they might want to copy or learn from. Please send items (up to 50 words) to jane.oconnell@navca.org.uk

News from NAVCA programmes

- [Children and young people](#)
- [Health and social care](#)
- [Improving Local Partnerships](#)
- [Local Commissioning and Procurement Unit](#)
- [Supporting offenders](#)

For latest NAVCA news see our website at: www.navca.org.uk, especially our [News page](#) and our [RSS feeds](#).

P.S: Don't forget to send any tender alerts to tcd@navca.org.uk for circulation all subscribers.

Empowering the Voluntary Sector advice line

In these difficult times of spending cuts we want to make sure that relationships with the public sector remain fruitful, but there are times when we feel that actions or decisions made by public bodies are not compliant with the Compact and breach the basic principles of public law - fairness, openness and transparency.



The Empowering the Voluntary Sector project's advice team can help! We bring together the expertise of the Compact Advocacy team and the Public Law Project to support you. This support can range from a simple discussion to preparation for Judicial Review.

If you need support, contact the advice line by calling **020 7520 3161** or email evsAdvice@ncvo-vol.org.uk

Improving Local Partnerships advice line

Want to know what YOU can do to get your voice heard?



NAVCA's Improving Local Partnerships Unit can help! Get in touch with our [advice line](#), whether you're struggling to understand the jargon, or have a specific question about representation in your area.

NAVCA ebulletins

Other NAVCA ebulletins are available:

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News



Strengthening civil society

Introducing last week's [debate](#) in the House of Lords on the role of the charitable sector in strengthening civil society, Lord Taylor of Holbeach (a Government Whip) said: "We also want to support local infrastructure organisations, like councils for voluntary service, which play a valuable role in energising local action by nurturing the small groups that bind neighbourhoods together".

Councils should recognise the valuable role of the voluntary sector - Greg Clark

Councils should make best use of the voluntary sector's ability to deliver effective and innovative local services when managing future budgets, Decentralisation Minister Greg Clark said in a [speech to local authority chief executives](#).

Big Society - new resources from The Young Foundation

The Young Foundation has published a range of new [resources](#) to help people get to grips with the idea of the Big Society.

Public Services (Social Enterprise and Social Value) Bill

A [Private Members Bill](#) proposed by Chris White MP is currently progressing through parliament and will have its second reading on 19 November. The Bill aims to encourage the development of social enterprise and to incorporate social value into all public sector contracts. Please contact your MP and urge them to support the Bill.

Shadow Minister for Civil Society

[Roberta Blackman-Woods](#), Labour MP for the City of Durham, has been appointed the shadow minister for civil society.



Neighbourhood Challenge

NESTA has launched [Neighbourhood Challenge](#), a major programme that will demonstrate how to galvanize communities to respond to local priorities. Over the next year, NESTA will work with partners to trial different approaches to community organising and supporting community-led innovation, initially in ten local areas across England.

Local Grants for a strong independent voluntary sector

This Local Grants Forum guide lists resources you can use to convince councillors, commissioning officers and procurement

- Commissioning & Procurement news
- Empowering the Voluntary Sector
- Every Child Matters News
- Improving Local Partnership Policy News
- SKILDbites (for development workers).

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35,000 people are now using goodmoves to search for jobs each month. To join up, go to

www.goodmoves.org.uk and set up your personal Job Alert email.

Jobs currently advertised on Goodmoves:

- Organisational Development Officer, Voluntary Action Westminster
- Senior Debt Adviser, Shelter (based Halifax)
- Managing Director of Retail and Commercial Operations, Shelter (based London).



Protecting your business is our business. www.peninsula-uk.com

As a NAVCA member/affiliate you can [subscribe to Peninsula's Employment Law Advice and Tribunal Protection Service](#) at a special rate. Among other benefits, this will entitle you to receive the BottomLine Express, Peninsula's fortnightly employment law and HR news

professionals that grants should continue to be used to fund local charities and community groups. Free print copies are available from NAVCA, email navca@navca.org.uk.

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Funding and awards

Gift Aid Transitional Relief

Since the basic rate of tax fell from 22% to 20% in 2008 the Government has added a supplement of 3p to the 25p Gift Aid reclaimable for every £1 donated by tax payers to charities/community amateur sports clubs. This transitional relief is due to end on 5 April next year and charities/CASCs need to start thinking ahead, eg: ask your donors to send donations before 6 April if possible; ensure budgets are amended to take into account the lower level of Gift Aid; update cash flow forecasts and tenders for new funding. See the [HMRC website](#).



Reaching out to carers innovation fund 2010/11

This [DH funding](#) is targeted at voluntary sector organisations that are keen to support carers. Deadline: 17 November.

Vodafone World of Difference

The [Vodafone World of Difference](#) programme gives 500 people across the UK the chance to work for a charity of their choice for two months, and get paid for it. The Vodafone Foundation provides each charity with £250 to cover its expenses and £2,500 to support its successful candidate. Deadline: 23 November.

ICAEW Charities Online

Financial Reporting Awards

The [Charities Online Financial Reporting Awards](#) are open to charities which prepare their accounts in line with the charities' SORP or other Charity Commission guidance for small charities. Deadline: 3 December.

Fair Share Trust

The [Fair Share Trust](#) aims to build community skills, confidence, experience and networks to improve local neighbourhoods and leave a positive lasting legacy in areas that have not received their fair share of lottery funding in the past.

People's Postcode Trust

The [People's Postcode Trust](#) supports projects which operate within the following fields: poverty prevention, health, community development, public sports, human rights, or environmental protection. Grants range from £500-£10,000. Deadline: 10

bulletin.



Zurich provides comprehensive insurance and risk management solutions designed for charities and the voluntary sector.

Through a unique collaboration with Tennyson Insurance, we provide a tailored service for local support and development organisations. This ensures our customers only buy the insurance they need - saving you time and money. For more information, please call us on 0845 6003184 or email zurichthirdsector@uk.zurich.com.



NAVCA co-ordinates a network of ICT Champions who work with local support and development organisations in each region.

They are helping their members:

- to understand how to fund and use technology to deliver efficient and sustainable services
- to explore and experiment with new technology and be more effective with the communities they work in



Contact your local ICT Champion for more information.

November.

Baily Thomas Charitable Fund

The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund offers research grants to voluntary organisations and also funds projects that assist young people and adults affected by learning disabilities. Grants of £250-£4,000 are available.

Only Connect

Only Connect is a visit scheme sponsored by Triodos Bank. It enables you to visit another voluntary and community organisation to learn about their experience and the key issues to consider when generating earned income. Next deadline: 10 December.

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Recently published

[Great Goal! Tackling rural poverty High Peak CVS video.](#)

[Volunteering Impact Assessment Toolkit 2010 Volunteering England.](#)

[How dependent is the third sector on public funding? Evidence from the National Survey of Third Sector Organisations Third Sector Research Centre.](#)

[Preparing for cuts: How funders should support charities in a world of government cuts and changing funding structures New Philanthropy Capital.](#)

[The Big Society: A Perspective from Merseyside Community Foundation for Merseyside.](#)

[Good Governance: a Code for the Voluntary and Community sector Second Edition. NCVO.](#)

[Voicing Your Right to Know: a guide to using the Freedom of Information Act in campaigning NCVO.](#)

[Compact and spending decisions Communities and Local Government.](#)

[A Voluntary and Community Sector Guide to Using International Human Rights National Equality Partnership.](#)

[High Impact, Low Cost - Chair and Trustee Development Centre for Charity Effectiveness 'thought piece'.](#)

[In All Our Colours: Lesbian, bisexual and trans women's services in the UK Women's Resource Centre.](#)



Need help with commissioning and procurement?

Whether you are a Chief Officer, commissioning specialist or general development worker, contact NAVCA's Local Commissioning and Procurement Enquiry Service.

Call us: 0114 289 3989

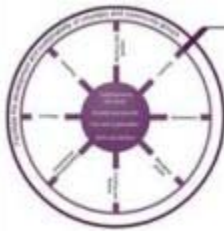
Email us: lcpu@navca.org.uk

Online: www.navca.org.uk/lcpu

Mailing list: lcpu@navca.org.uk

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/lcpu>

SKiLD framework



The SKiLD framework website is a useful and user-friendly way for development workers from

local support and development organisations to track their personal development.

Visit www.skildframework.org.uk to register for free.

Advertising in LINX

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Paid adverts are now available in LINX from £40 plus VAT.

Quick links

[Our website](#)

[About NAVCA](#)

[NAVCA news](#)

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Health and social care

NAVCA influencing Department of Health policy on Public Health

On 25 October, Katy Wing (NAVCA's Director - Improving Local Services) participated in a roundtable discussion involving Paul Burstow, Minister of State for Care Services, to inform the development of the forthcoming Public Health White Paper. NAVCA is taking every opportunity to influence DH policy. To feed in your views on the public health proposals, or any other aspect of Government health and social care policy, contact katy.wing@navca.org.uk.

Letter to Minister: Healthwatch

Kevin Curley has written to Health Minister Andrew Lansley to raise several matters of concern to NAVCA members regarding the commissioning of local HealthWatch discussed in the Health White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS'. See [NAVCA newspaper](#).

Liberating the NHS consultations

Two further consultation documents (and supporting materials) have been published by the Secretary of State for Health:

- [Liberating the NHS: An information revolution](#)
- [Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control](#)

Deadline for both consultations: 14 January. Please let NAVCA know if you are planning any local workshops or sessions on these consultations: jon.burke@navca.org.uk.

Personalisation health check

NAVCA has developed a simple diagnostic tool, with accompanying guidance notes and an action plan, which can be used by local support and development organisations to undertake a personalisation health check with the local voluntary organisations they support.

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Learning and development

National Training Award for Enfield VA

Congratulations to [Enfield Voluntary Action](#) which has been awarded a Greater London National Training Award for its Community Empowerment and Leadership course.

[NAVCA events](#)

[NAVCA resources](#)

[NAVCA publications](#)

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- used for commercial purposes.

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Organisations, publications, events, campaigns and services mentioned in LINX are not necessarily endorsed by NAVCA. Please note that NAVCA is not responsible for the content of external websites - opinions expressed on these sites do not necessarily represent those of NAVCA.

We are happy to receive brief items for LINX, but reserve the right to refuse any item which contravenes our '[Statement of Values](#)'.

We also reserve the right to edit/shorten items.

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Advocating Intelligent Commissioning

At the end of this session, run by NAVCA's Local Commissioning and Procurement Unit, participants will be better equipped to champion good practice in the commissioning of public services. [24 November, Leeds.](#)

Let SKiLD come to you

SKiLD is able to deliver courses locally to development workers where an organisation, or network, has identified at least ten development workers who have a learning need. Contact the SKiLD team on **0114 278 6636** or email skild@navca.org.uk.

Institute for Learning calls for independent inquiry

Following the Comprehensive Spending Review, the Institute for Learning (IfL) is calling on the coalition government to set up an [independent inquiry](#) into world-class teaching and training in further education and skills.



See also [NAVCA events and training](#).

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Children and young people

Comprehensive cuts: Report on funding changes in the voluntary and community youth sector

More than two-thirds of voluntary and community organisations working in the youth sector have seen their funding cut in the past year, according to this report from the [National Council for Voluntary Youth Services](#).



Child in the countryside

The Commission for Rural Communities has published [Child in the Countryside: A Challenging Reality](#). The report argues that children and young people living in the countryside face isolation, poor housing, and inadequate transport links.

Kelly Family Charitable Trust

The [Kelly Family Charitable Trust](#) supports charities whose activities involve the whole family in initiatives that seek to tackle problematical issues that face one or more of its members, and whose aims include the strengthening of family bonds by helping all elements of the family unit to grow together and support each other. Next deadline: 1 March.

Contact us

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Environment and sustainability



Making your development work greener

This SKILD course will give you the skills and knowledge to help the groups you work with get to grips with tackling climate change and reducing their carbon footprint. 23 November, London and 26 January, Sheffield.

Carbon Trust - ICT project loans

Interest free energy efficiency loans from the Carbon Trust are now available for ICT projects.

Carbon addict

Carbon Addict is a humorous, cartoon-based website that cites the symptoms, behaviours, diagnosis and management of 'carbon dependence syndrome'.

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Policy, consultation and research

Localising Justice

Clinks has published Localising Justice: How can we increase local VCS

involvement in service design and delivery? a discussion papers to stimulate debate ahead of publication of the Government's Rehabilitation Green Paper. Clinks would like NAVCA members to participate in this debate, and NAVCA has produced a discussion document. If you want to take part, please complete the questionnaire as soon as possible.



Have you ever had a grant application refused?

Cass Business School is currently researching grant refusal in order to improve practice among grant makers. To take part complete their online survey by 5 November.

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Events

Communications for a Big Society Media Trust conference. Limited number of free places available for support provider organisations. 9 November, London.

Facing our Future

Women's Resource Centre Annual Conference 7 December, London.

*CANn (the Community Accounting Network) Conference 2011 25-27
January, York.*

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